

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, and 14 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1 and 5-7 are currently amended. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 20, line 7 to page 22, line 1, at page 42, lines 5-25, and in Figures 1(a)-5. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Weihrauch (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,610); Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Weihrauch in view of Polzin et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0112810, hereinafter “Polzin”); and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Weihrauch in view of Yamaguchi (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0213083).

Initially, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Wilson for the courtesies extended to Applicants’ representative during the interview held on December 23, 2008, at which time the outstanding issues in the application were discussed. Arguments and amendments consistent with the discussion are hereby presented for formal consideration.

In response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse these rejections, as discussed below.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

A paint roller, comprising:

a liquid-impermeable tubular core member including a base part, a support part extending from the base part, and a fastening part extending from the base part, wherein the support part and the fastening part comprise a male element extending from an outer surface of the core member; and

a cover member attached exchangeably on a surface of the core member, and the cover member is a fabric comprising a base which is woven or knitted from at least a thread having a loop, and the fabric has a pile on an upper surface of the cover member and the loop on an inner surface of the cover member, and the loop comprises a female element, wherein

the core member is attached to the cover member with an engagement of the male element and the female element, and

a height of the male element is 0.3 to 4.0 mm.

Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, Claim 1 is hereby amended to clarify that the male element is a part of the liquid-impermeable tubular core member itself. Specifically, the male element is the support part and the fastening part extending from the outer surface of the core member. Claim 1 is also hereby amended to clarify that the female element is a part of the cover member itself. Specifically, the female element is the loop on the inner surface formed by the thread the passes through the cover member to form the pile on the upper surface thereof. Thus, when the cover member is wrapped around the core member, the female element of the cover member attached to the male element of the core member such that the cover member is fixed to the core member without any additional fixation means provided between them. Accordingly, the desired space between the core member and cover member can be achieved. Additionally, as the male element is positioned on the core member, paint removal from the core member is made easier. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

Weihrauch describes a roll for a paint roller with a bow shaped support member provided with a handle on which the roll can be mounted.¹ In one embodiment, Weihrauch describes a cover part which can be applied radially to a carrying body by means of a Velcro

¹ See Weihrauch, at column 1, lines 10-15.

fastener that is added between the cover part and carrying body.² Additionally, Weihrauch describes that the cover part can be given a smooth, relatively hard surface or a paint application covering.³

However, it is respectfully submitted that Weihrauch does not disclose or suggest “a liquid-impermeable tubular core member including a base part, a support part extending from the base part, and a fastening part extending from the base part, wherein the support part and the fastening part comprise a male element extending from an outer surface of the core member; and a cover member attached exchangeably on a surface of the core member, and the cover member is a fabric comprising a base which is woven or knitted from at least a thread having a loop, and the fabric has a pile on an upper surface of the cover member and the loop on an inner surface of the cover member, and the loop comprises a female element,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Instead, as discussed above, Weihrauch describes that the paint application layer such as the plush layer is fixed to the carrying body surface by means of the Velcro fastener positioned between the application layer and the carrying body. Thus, the Velcro fastener described in Weihrauch is an extra piece separate from the application layer and the carrying body. Accordingly, the application layer and the carrying body are not integrally comprised of the male and female elements themselves.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Weihrauch does not disclose or suggest every element recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon, as unpatentable over Weihrauch be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejections of Claims 9, 10, and 14, Applicants respectfully submit that neither of the remaining secondary references (Polzin and Yamaguchi) cure the

² See Weihrauch, at column 2, lines 47-52.

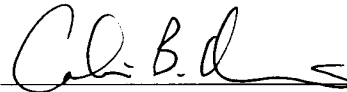
³ See Weihrauch, at column 2, lines 52-58.

deficiencies noted above with respect to Weihrauch. Specifically, in the paint rollers described in Polzin and Yamaguchi, the cover member is fixed to the mandrel or the roll core by an adhesive, and the cover member cannot be easily exchanged for a new one. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 9, 10, and 14 patentably define over all of the cited references. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the remaining rejections of the claims be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Colin B. Harris
Registration No. 58,969